What is claimed is:

1. (original) A flat system for use in the oral cavity, comprised of at least one upper and at least one lower water-soluble covering layer; between the upper and lower covering layers, at least one intermediate layer is provided,
wherein the intermediate layer has a smaller area than the covering layers due to the fact that the intermediate layer is recessed along the edge of the flat system.

2. (original) The flat system as recited in claim 1,
wherein the upper and lower covering layer are attached to each other by means of sealing in the edge region of the flat system.

3. (currently amended) The flat system as recited in ~~one or more of the previous claims~~ claim 1,
wherein the width of the sealed seam is 0.3 – 3 mm, preferably 0.5 – 2 mm.

4. (currently amended) The flat system as recited in ~~one or more of the previous claims~~ claim 1,
wherein the overall thickness of the flat system at its thickest point is 50 to 500 µm, preferably 100 to 300 µm.

5. (currently amended) The flat system as recited in ~~one or more of the previous claims~~ claim 1,
wherein the intermediate layer is water-soluble and has a melting point between 30 and 120°C, preferably between 50 and 100°C.

6. (currently amended) The flat system as recited in ~~one or more of claims 1 through 4~~ claim 1,
wherein the intermediate layer is water-insoluble.

7. (original) The flat system as recited in claim 6,
wherein the intermediate layer is a solid preparation, which melts at temperatures between 30 and 45°C, preferably between 32 and 40°C.

8. (original) The flat system as recited in claim 7,
wherein the intermediate layer is comprised of a matrix that is used in the manufacture of rectal suppositories, preferably made of one or more hard fats (Adeps solidus) as described in the monograph of the European Pharmacopeia.

9. (original) The flat system as recited in claim 6,
wherein the intermediate layer is an oleaginous solution, suspension, or emulsion.

10. (currently amended) The flat system as recited in ~~one or more of the previous claims~~ claim 1,
wherein the intermediate layer is segmented within the flat product by virtue of the fact that the upper and lower covering layer are sealed to each other in this region.

11. (currently amended) The flat system as recited in ~~one or more of the previous claims~~ claim 1,
wherein the intermediate layer contains at least one pharmaceutical agent in a dissolved or undissolved form.

12. (original) The flat system as recited in claim 11,
wherein the solubility of the pharmaceutical agent in the intermediate layer is at least n times 10, preferably n times 10-100, where n represents the solubility of the covering layers.

13. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a flat system as recited in ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,
wherein

- an intermediate layer composed of a lipophilic pharmaceutical preparation is deposited in a thin layer onto a water-soluble polymer layer,
- then is covered with a second water-soluble polymer layer,
- the upper and lower polymer layers are attached to each other in segments by means of heat sealing;

mechanical pressure at the sealing points displaces the intermediate layer situated between the upper and lower polymer layer and the sealed covering layers form fully enclosed compartments in the intermediate layer.

14. (original) The method as recited in claim 13,
wherein the residual moisture in the water-soluble polymer films is set to a value that improves the sealing capacity, preferably a value of 1 – 10% (m/m) water content.

15. (original) The method as recited in claim 14,

wherein the residual moisture in the water-soluble polymer films is reduced by means of a drying process after the manufacture of the flat capsules.

16. (currently amended) The method as recited in ~~one or more of claims 13 through 15~~ claim 13,

wherein the sealing capacity of the water-soluble polymer films is assured by means of softening additives from the group of hydrophilic fluids, preferably from the group of polyvalent alcohols with 3 to 6 carbon atoms ($C_3 - C_6$), particularly preferably glycerol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,3-butane diol, hexylene glycol, or dipropylene glycol.